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OKLAHOMA CONGRESSMEN AND PREPAREDNESS.

It is evident from their published interviews that the members of the Oklahoma delegation in congress are somewhat up in the air on the preparedness question. In spots their statements lack frankness and one might infer that in a few cases at least these statements, opinions that they know somewhat less about the great issue in question than the average newspaper reader who has seriously attempted to inform himself on the subject. In the main they express themselves in generalities, without going into the merits of the concrete issues presented by the administration program.

It is noticeable, however, that while they make plain their opposition to militarism, a thing that has mighty few supporters in any quarter in this country, they leave the way open for taking any stand that they see fit when they are confronted by the necessity of casting their votes on the various bills that may be presented. There is no indication that President Wilson has any idea of planning the nation into the machinery of militarism, his plans including only such enlargement of our naval and military establishments as prudence and safety dictate. In the light of the enlarged knowledge that has come to us relative to the wide prevalence of the war mania in the world since the conflict in Europe started.

More mature deliberation will doubtless convince our congressmen that the president is asking nothing unreasonable or anything out of line with the best American traditions and policies. Some of the particular proposals of the administration may not be acceptable. Indeed, there are abundant reasons for differences of opinion as the best methods of solving the problem but on the principle of the necessity of stronger national defense there should be general agreement.

FORCING THE ISSUE WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia, has been demanding that the United States take drastic action to the end that America may be able to ship cotton to Germany without interference by England. He wants us to brandish the mailed fist in John Bull's face, but, at the same time, with the understanding that we don't really intend to hand him some upper cuts and other kinds of blows that will have a tendency to muss up his mug, since we don't want to go to war. The senator's ideas are further elucidated by the Dallas News as follows:

"Senator Smith would have an em-

bargo, not declared, let it be added hastily, but merely threatened. Tactically he admits that we could as ill afford the consequences of an embargo as could the English. Since, as matters stand, the number and buying power of our customers are exceedingly limited, it would seem to be the strategy of cutting off the nose to spite the face to refuse to sell to the best customers remaining to us. But, says Senator Smith, it wouldn't come to this. Great Britain would surrender to the threat of an embargo. In that case we should be in the attitude of making a threat that we didn't really intend to execute. We do not believe that the people of the United States desire to have Uncle Sam play the part of the bully.

The salient fact in this matter is the one which the politicians insist on ignoring. It is that unless we are resolved to support our contention with war, nothing more can honorably be done than is being done to assert our belief that the commercial isolation of Germany is an indispensable prerequisite to our success. They may be wrong in their opinion both as to their ability to do this and as to the effectiveness of the measure even if they succeed. The essential fact is they do believe in both propositions. They believe it so firmly that they will persist in that policy even though the penalty of persistence should be war. They regard this measure as vital to the success of their efforts in a war for their national life. Hence Senator Smith egregiously deceives himself if he imagines that Great Britain would capitulate to a threat, to a bluff, and to one which, it would know as well as we, we could not afford to execute. The British people are, as Senator John Sharp Williams observed, war-maddened. They are not altogether amenable at this time to argument of reason and equity. The best to be done is being done, namely, to assert our rights and wait until the war is over to demand a full reparation. Doubtless there is some sincerity in the demand for the employment of more drastic measures; but we are persuaded that undiluted buncob is much the larger ingredient in the compound.

Better keep your eyes on that man Creekmore, who is being prosecuted somewhat prominently on the charge that he is a "booby trust." First thing we know, he is likely to bob up as a candidate for governor.

Chairman Hillis of the Republican national committee advises the public that the coming G. O. P. convention will be thoroughly open-minded. It is a serious question, however, whether

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COURT CLERK.

J. H. ("Bud") Gibbs announces that he is a candidate for court clerk, subject to the action of Democratic voters.

His stomach will be in a condition to swallow Teddy. Even if it should make a meal of the big Moose, the chances are that the elephant would have such an awful case of nightmare that it would not be able to get sufficient sleep to recuperate its run-down system.

Carrazza is using the Mexican method of meting out justice to murderous bandits. The object lesson which he has been hanging up at Juarez are gruesome enough but, however revolting they may be to the sensibilities of humane people, it cannot be denied that they furnish evidence that the de-facto government is sincere in its determination to put a stop to outrages against foreigners and they may serve the additional purpose of checking the operations of the followers of Villa.

EXPRESS PACKETTES.

Such silly stuff the poets grind—
A Simpler set is hard to find—
But still, I guess, a simple song,
Helps some to make the world more long.

A whole month will soon have passed, girls. It is your chance to leap.

In the long-run and otherwise almost anybody is better company than John Harleyscon.

Anyway, Harry Hayes carries sufficient avoirdupois to make a dignified looking police judge.

St. Sump says he notices that two cars always collide when they come together with a crash.

It takes more than a few warm days in January to make spring. We don't urge you to plant your garden yet.

As a rule when a woman scales the social ladder high enough to have a butler she doesn't mind confessing it.

If reports are true there will be many weeping widows if they ever catch Villa. He seems to be a muchly married man.

Another reason for not making your private affairs a topic of conversation is that comparatively few people are interested in the subject.

Still, it is somewhat unusual for a full-grown woman to let her angry passions rise to a point that will prompt her to bump her head against a wall.

And more than one Chickasha man is wondering how he is going to get a barrel of beer since the express company has shut off shipment via Verden.

When Fred Frey Jr., two or three years old, was told by his parents that they were going to the "opera house"—in order to avoid mention of the movie subject—he asked, "Are you going to have an operation?"

A STOLEN SMILE 'ER TWO.

Economic Determinism.
An Atlanta man tells of this conversation between two darky bucks of that town:
"Pill, I heahs dat you' was courtin' dat Hots girl down my way."
"Sho' I was. An' I was in love with dat gal, too; only I heahs dat she ain't got a cent. So I says to myself: 'Bills, be a man.' An' I was a man, Henry; an' now I passes her by with silent contempt!"—Ex.

Voice of Experience.
"I'm learning to hake gudge and taffy," said the prospective bride, "so that I can please my husband with some after we are wedded."
"Fudge and taffy are what the men like," responded the old married woman. "That suits 'em, whether you make it or whether you talk it, my dear."—Ex.

Judge—Where did the automobile hit you?
Rastus—Well, Jedge, if I'd been car-carrying a Hoggie nubbly, it would hah

IN-SHOOTS

No Irishman has to be drafted into a fight.

Turkey wants \$97,000,000. Why be a piker?

Maybe Ford is returning for more screws of peace?

The mush in a love letter seems to grow softer with age.

Bernhardt is still able to sit up and let others take notice.

Much of the "country sausage" has a brick pavement flavor.

There are no cinders or jolts in the railroad excursion folders.

Matrimony can occasionally subdue a man without reforming him.

No fellow likes to argue over religion so well as the one who has no creed.

In case of harboring a grudge the hater generally fares worse than the hated.

Some persons seem to be able to harbor a grudge more gracefully than others.

The girl with a dimple in her cheek is not always as sweet as she may appear.

Eternal vigilance equips the railroad managers to boost fares at the proper time.

The wife-beater is generally too tender-hearted to act when asked to beat the carpet.

It is better to lose than have the fruits of victory leave a bad taste in one's mouth.

LITTLE BITS OF SCIENCE

The ancients held the theory that the earth was a flat disk.

Approximately the mass of the earth is 6,000,000,000,000,000,000 tons.

Geodesy is the name given to the science of measuring the surface of the earth.

By far the greater portion of the earth's land surface is covered with growing vegetation.

What we now call the earth was at first nothing more nor less than a great globe of glowing gas.

Among the planets the earth comes third in order of nearness to the sun. Mercury and Venus being before it.

Scientists are unable to tell the earth's age exactly; their estimates range from 1 million to 40 million years.

In high latitudes the sun's rays strike the earth's surface obliquely, and have thus less heating power than in low latitudes.

If a magnetic needle is placed upon a pivot, so as to oscillate freely, it takes up a position which is, approximately, north and south.

WISE SAYINGS

All quacks are not hatched from duck eggs.

A tight man and a loose dog are equally dangerous.

The Lord loveth a cheerful giver—and so do other people.

A horse may pull with all his might, but never with his mane.

Always keep your temper; it's worth more to you than it is to anybody else.

Liquor may affect a man's brain, if he has any. Otherwise it affects his legs.

Ambition is a feeling that you want to do something that you know you can't.

HASHHOUSE HAPPENINGS

It takes a good cook to do a buck-wheat cake up brown.

Boarding houses drive many a bachelor to drink or matrimony.

It doesn't appease a man's hunger when he is forced to eat his words.

Perhaps a cook sometimes leaves her place because she is unable to pack it in her trunk and take it with her.

CURRENT REMARKS

Jess Willard—Wear loose clothing.

Hilaire Belloc—All that cats think is evil.

Enrico Caruso—St. Patrick was an Italian.

Arthur Brisbane—Don't try to write 'effectively'.

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RODDY'S

CONSTIPATION AND INDIGESTION.

"I have used Chamberlain's Tablets and must say they are the best I have ever used for constipation and indigestion. My wife also used them for indigestion and they did her good," writes Eugene S. Knight, Wilmington, N. C. Obtainable everywhere, d&w.

Just the Thing.

Parke—"You know, I wish I had some real occupation that I knew was going to take up a large part of my time for the rest of my life." Lane—"Why don't you start a lawsuit in New York?"—Life.

Strong Temptation.

When a man has an idea that the weight of the world rests on his shoulders he is almost invariably tempted to kick, regardless of the risk of upsetting his precious luggage.

Good Enough.

"Is that a good fountain pen of yours?" "The best ever. It never leaks—except, of course, when I'm wearing a white vest."

Why Pessimist Is Not Loved.

The trouble about being a pessimist is that the oftener your judgment proves correct the less people like you.

Knew the Beat of Trouble.

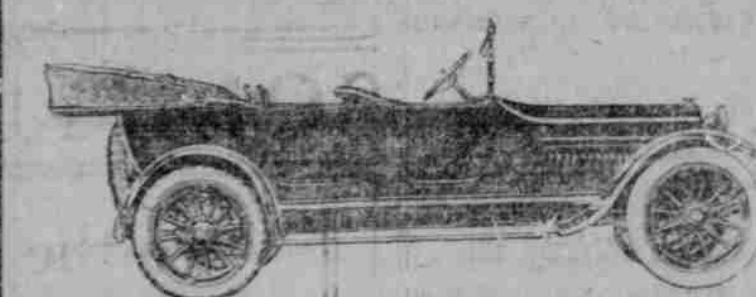
Patient—"Oh, doctor, I have a terribly tired feeling all the time!" Physician—"Let me see your tongue, madam."—Judge.

Daily Thought.

Be joyful or sorrowful, the heart needs a second heart. Joy shared is joy doubled; pain shared is pain divided.—Ruckert.

Qualified.

"Edith is a beautiful skater, don't you think?" "Well, she skates beaut-



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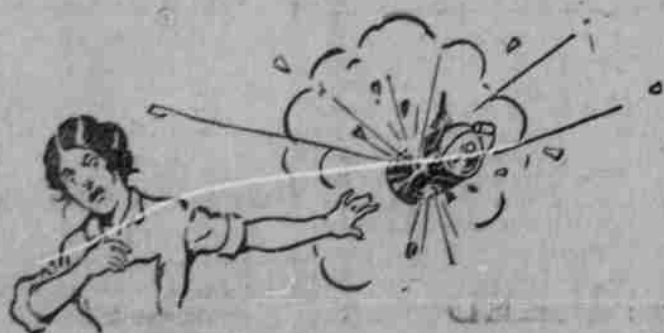
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